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DR. JUVELIUS AND THE QUEST FOR THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

There is no question but that the Ark of the Covenant was the most important article kept inside the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. The Bible tells that the location of the Ark was in the Holy of Holies (1. Kings 8:6). According to the Bible, the Ark was a richly-decorated box, which the Israelites built according to a design given to them by the Lord in the beginning of their 40 years of wandering in the desert. In about 586 B.C. the Babylonian army of Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem and destroyed both the city and Solomon's Temple. There is no mention in the Bible of what happened to the Ark at the time of the sack of the city. According to one Jewish tradition (the Mishnah) the Ark of the Covenant was hidden underground and escaped destruction.

In 2. Maccabees 2:1-8 (The Apocrypha) we read that Jeremiah the prophet "being warned of God, commanded the Tabernacle and the Ark to go with him as he went forth into the mountain, where Moses climbed up and saw the heritage of God. And when Jeremiah came thither, he found a hollow cave, wherein he laid the Tabernacle and the Ark and the Altar of Incense and so stopped the door." Thus according to this text, Jeremiah removed the Ark from Jerusalem to Mount Nebo and hid it in a cave.

Another tradition (the Kebra Negast) holds that the Ark was possibly transferred to Ethiopia long before the invasion of the Babylonians. The Coptic church in Axum is supposed to be the location of the Ark at the present time. Of course it is possible that there is some truth to these various stories about the Ark, but they also could be intended to deliberately lead us astray so that the secret hiding place of the Ark could never be found. Also, it is possible that the Ark had been removed from the city, but then moved back to the Temple Mount some time after the devastation. In any event, it is clear that the priests of Solomon's Temple would not have let their most holy relic be destroyed, so it is possible that they hid the Ark perhaps in some secret chambers beneath the Temple, deep inside the Temple Mount, upon which today stands the Dome of the Rock, the third holiest Mosque in all of Islam.

Dr. Juvelius and the Ezekiel cipher

In the early 1900's, Dr. Valter H. Juvelius (1865-1922), a Finnish biblical scholar, became familiar with the various Jewish traditions concerning the Ark while studying in several countries. When he was making his doctoral thesis of the chronology of the Jewish history, he learned that the Ark could possibly still be in existence and hidden in the region of the Temple Mount, and that some ciphers in certain original biblical passages could reveal the secret hiding place, he obtained a Hebrew Old Testament and concentrated on this problem. According to Dr. Juvelius the Book of Ezekiel contains a secret code, or cipher, which describes the exact location of the Ark and the route to the hiding place. The secret had been known only to the high priests and to Ezekiel himself, but they all died before the captivity in Babylon ended and the secret was eventually forgotten. Dr. Juvelius believed that he had broken Ezekiel's code

and he drew maps in Finland based upon his conclusions. He decided to travel to Jerusalem to view the site first-hand. He sent postcards back to his father from the various places he visited, all of which are still intact, so it is possible to locate the places he explored. Naturally the purpose of his visit to the holy city had to be kept secret, because the ultimate target for his excavations, the Temple Mount itself, was sacred both to the Muslims and the Jews.

In order to carry out archaeological excavations in Jerusalem, it was necessary to obtain prior permission from the Turkish government, so to deal with this problem, Dr. Juvelius formed a company in London in 1908 with the name of J.M.P.F.W. Ltd., which included the first initials of the names of the original members of the expedition: Juvelius, Millen, Parker, Forth and Waughan. All except the Finnish Juvelius and the Swedish engineer Johan Millen were English noblemen. The target of the Jerusalem expedition was to find the Ark of the Covenant, which Millen believed would be the sign of the Millennium, mentioned in the Book of Revelation. His belief was later shared by the German Nazis and their special unit SS Ahnenerbe, who also tried to find the Ark and use it for their own purposes. The theme was a commercial success in the movie "Raiders of the Lost Ark".

The Jerusalem expedition

The expedition arrived in Jerusalem in August, 1909. Dr. Juvelius was in charge of the expedition and Millen and a Finnish archaeologist Pertti Uotila were in charge of the excavations. A French archaeologist Dr., père Henri Vincent, who was a professor in Ecole Biblique et Archéologique in Jerusalem at that time, was supervising the excavations. Later Dr. Vincent wrote in his book "Jerusalem Sous Terre, Les Recentes Fouilles D'Ophel" (London 1911): "My duty has been to control the excavations and their results so that they are carried out properly and scientifically. When the results of this expedition will be published, they will give evidence of the sincere purpose and scientific precision of the excavations crew." So according to Dr. Vincent the expedition had mainly scientific purpose and not desecration of the holy place as was later written in sensationalist newspapers.

They were not allowed to dig in the Temple area itself, so the excavations began about 600 metres to the south of it, outside the city wall near the Virgins Well. Engineer Millen described the course of the excavations in his book "På Rätta Vägar" (Stockholm 1917). He said that they worked during three years following the maps and descriptions prepared by Dr. Juvelius based upon the Ezekiel cipher. He thus assured that the Juvelius decipherment was correct. He stated that without it they could not have started nor continued the work. He also stated that without its guidance and warnings they would have taken many unnecessary risks and perhaps lost many lives when they tried to break through closed labyrinths and tunnels. He reported that inside the Temple Mount there is a threefold system of tunnels, labyrinths and water canals, each with its own purpose. The openings to the tunnels were so carefully sealed that without the cipher they would have been impossible to find, since the artificial walls looked exactly like the natural rock. There was also the danger that an incautious worker would be drowned in the tunnels. According to Millen they found poisonous gas in the tunnels, which caused burns and dizziness, although I believe that this was natural gas, such as is found in mineshafts. They encountered many traps which had been placed in the passageways to protect the possible hidden treasure. Also, the crew found vases,

urns, lamps and other artifacts which were affixed with the royal seal of Solomon.

The power of the Ark of the Covenant

According to Ezekiel cipher the hiding place of the treasure, i.e. the Ark of the Covenant, the Tablets of the Law and the archives of the Temple, was inside the Temple Mount in a dry place, which was constructed so that the tunnels which were around it, could have been filled with water, if it was necessary to protect the treasure. In front of the opening to the supposed hiding place there was a shaft filled with water that had to be emptied before entering the hiding place. Also according to the cipher there were three ways to enter it. The easiest way was through the tunnel, which was directly under the so called Sacred Rock which shows indications of having been used as an altar in very ancient times. There are some underground chambers and tunnels under the Sacred Rock which have been known for a long time. According to Rev. Voitto Viro, who has studied this matter very closely, in the Jewish Mishnah there are some lines which say that the Ark of the Covenant should be in the Temple area near the Altar of Burnt Offerings. Some scholars suggest that the Altar of Burnt Offerings was constructed over or alongside of the Sacred Rock, so this seems to confirm at least the then situation of the supposed hiding place of the Ark. Because it was impossible to break through the Sacred Rock, Dr. Juvelius decided to try to get there through those other two tunnels.

When Dr. Juvelius was studying the Ezekiel cipher in the early 1900's, he also concluded that the hiding place of the Ark contained dangerous radiation, and according to a Swedish researcher Henry Kjellson there are letters between Dr. Juvelius and Millen which confirmed the presence of radiation, the cause of which was a device which resembled a sandglass. It is most likely that they did not actually see the device, but learned of it from the decipherment of the biblical code. In the late 1950's, Henry Kjellson used a Geiger counter at the Virgins Well, but he detected no radiation at that location; however, if there are closed vaults and tunnels inside the Temple Mount, it is possible that the radiation, now weak, is not coming through the rock.

There are many inexplicable and powerful qualities connected with the Ark. Dr. Juvelius and Millen believed also that Moses knew about the radium, or other radioactive substance, that was possibly used in the Ark. The Levites, who were charged with caring for the Ark, had to safeguard themselves with special overalls when they were near the sacred chest. In the Old Testament, there are many stories about the danger connected with the Ark. On one occasion, the Philistines, who defeated the Israelites in a battle, captured the Ark and carried it from Eben-ezer to Ashdod, and then "the hand of the Lord was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, even Ashdod and the coasts thereof" (1. Sam. 5:6). Then the Philistines carried the Ark of God to Gath and the same thing happened.

After keeping the Ark for seven months, the Philistines became weary of its devastating effects on their people and sent it back to the Israelites and "the Levites took down the Ark of the Lord, and the coffer that was with it, wherein the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone" (1. Sam. 6:1-3, 15). But in spite of their efforts, the Ark contaminated the area of Beth-shemesh, and the Lord "smote the men of Beth-shemesh, because they had looked into the Ark of Lord, even he smote the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men; and the people lamented because the Lord had

smitten many of the people with a great slaughter (1. Sam. 6:19). According to Millen, the excavation crew experienced radiation effects under the Temple Mount, but unfortunately Millen did not explain them in his book.

Another interesting matter in the Old Testament is the capture by the Israelites of the ancient Palestinian city of Jericho, where by use of the Ark and trumpets, the walls of the city crashed down. Joshua, the leader of the Israelites, gives us an important detail in his biblical account: "And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it" (Josh. 6:18). What was the function of the Ark in this context? Was there some kind of deadly radiation, or perhaps some chemical substance, that contaminated the remains of Jericho's wall? In any event, Joshua warned his people not to touch them. In spite of his warnings "the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against the children of Israel" (Josh. 7:1).

Millen also suggested that besides the radiation there was also an electric current in the Ark. An example of possible electric power is the following statement in the second Book of Samuel: "Uzzah put forth his hand to the Ark of God, and took hold of it, for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the Ark of God" (2. Sam. 6:6-7).

The end of the expedition

In April 1911 the excavation crew lowered themselves into a cavern and began to break the stones that closed off the entrance to an ancient aqueduct system. Dr. Juvelius had returned to Finland, but was prepared to return to Jerusalem to attend what they hoped would be the final breakthrough into the hiding place of the Ark of the Covenant. However, there had been a tumult in Jerusalem when the world press disclosed that the Dome of the Rock (then called the Mosque of Omar) had been desecrated by adventurous Englishmen, and it became impossible to continue the work. Then in 1914 World War I broke out and the matter was dropped.

If there is an opportunity for future excavations in the Temple Mount of Jerusalem, it is unlikely that they will be conducted according to the original scheme of Dr. Juvelius, because all his original maps and directions have disappeared. Dr. Juvelius stated that they were stolen from him and that there was a spy among the members of his expedition who informed an outside person or organization of the expedition's activities. A high-ranking local official warned the expedition leader Capt. Parker that some outsiders had incited the local populace to riot, which in fact occurred, causing the expedition to quit Jerusalem. According to Millen, who was in Jerusalem at that time, the expedition didn't fled for their lives. They had plenty of time to cover their digs and get their equipments safe. Millen stated that the governor of Jerusalem even organised a farewell party for them. First after that the crew left Jerusalem to Jaffa. When the riot began, they were no more in Jerusalem but sailing to Malta in a private yacht. They had with them lots of artefacts, which they had found during the excavations. According to Dr. Juvelius, the cargo of the yacht was still in Malta in 1916. Since then the artefacts have most probably been transported to England, where they most likely now are parts of some private collections.

According to Rev. Voitto Viro, Dr. Juvelius made new maps during 1919-1922 at his home in Finland. These new maps, or at least a major part of them, are in the possession of relatives of Dr. Juvelius, who died in 1922. There have been attempts to buy these maps from them without success. Dr. Juvelius also had a valuable library of his own which was donated to the Academy of Turku, but unfortunately the most important book, his Hebrew Bible, was buried with him.

Was the decipherment of the Book of Ezekiel by Dr. Juvelius correct, or was it mainly imagination? Skeptics say that it is possible to get sensible secret sentences about practically every Hebrew text by picking out words, because the Hebrew writing system excludes vowels. On the other hand the terrain and the course of the excavations convinced Dr. Juvelius and his crew about the correctness of the decipherment.

When Johan Millen wrote his book "På Rätta Vägar" he had been pressured to leave out some significant details. He supposedly placed his personal papers in a safe deposit box and bequeathed them to one of the Swedish theosophical societies. When Millen died in the early 1950's, everybody expected that those papers would reveal many secrets concerning the Temple Mount expedition, but when the safe deposit box was opened, it was totally empty! The members of the theosophical society attempted to investigate the matter, but to no avail. Millen surely had lots of interesting information in his papers. In his book he wrote for example that Ezekiel's vision of the "Glory of the Lord" was in fact a description of a modern airplane! According to Millen this demonstration was a sign from God that the Bible was true. Millen was probably the first person to link together the vision of Ezekiel and modern aeronautical technology.

Could we still find the Ark of the Covenant? If the Ark (or the device inside it) named the Ancient of Days really is a nuclear-powered mechanical device, which manufactured a high-protein food product from a plant similar to chlorella, a microscopic alga, which sustained the Israelites during their 40 years of wandering in the desert, as postulated by George T. Sassoon and Rodney Dale (The Manna Machine and The Kabbalah Decoded, London 1978), it could still be emitting radiation. With today's sensitive detection instruments, it is possible to find it, if we know where to look it. Dr. Juvelius believed that an enormous amount of relics and valuable historical exhibits thousands of years old including the Ark of the Covenant is hidden under the holy city of Jerusalem and that such items, if discovered, would be crucial for the understanding of our civilization and for science.

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In the next issue of The Finnish Ufological Bulletin:

*The Mystery of the Sampo

*Information about the Research Institute on Anomalous Phenomena (RIAP), which has been established in Ukraine

UFO-NEWS

There have been lots of UFO-observations in Finland within the last 12 months. The UFO-research of Finland has also received lots of older UFO-observations. Because of the publicity in TV and on radio people have been better informed to report their observations to the UFO-research of Finland. Here are some new observations from Satakunta, Finland:

In Eura 18th March 1993 at 01.37 AM a 42-year old farmer Matti Puputti noticed a brightly-colored object located in the west about one kilometre away. The object was about 0,5 km above the ground. The size of the object was about 15-25 metres. The farmer could see some kind of windows and below them he could see a light that changed color from red to yellow and blue. The object was moving to the east completely noiseless about 30 degrees above the horizon. The object was within sight of Puputti about one minute.

There has been also other observations from different people all over Satakunta. For example in Kiukainen some people heard like buzzing noise in 18th March at 01.35 AM and saw an object with red and blue lights flying from west to east. There has been no airplanes in the sky at that time according to the airport and army officials. People have seen strange objects in Satakunta also before and after the 18th day during three consecutive days. The object that was seen seems to be identical with the object from Eura.

UFO-seminar in Oulu 13th - 15th May

A local science center Tietomaa organised an international UFO-seminar in Oulu in May. During the three days a.o. a Russian cosmonaut Pavel Popovich, a Russian uforesearcher Dr. Vladimir Azaza, an Estonian uforesearcher Igor Volke and a Canadian physicist Stanton Friedman lectured on ufological matters. A Russian cosmonaut Pavel Popovich stated that although he did never see any UFOs when he was in space, he had seen one mysterious, fast moving object during a flight from Washington to Moscow. The object was about one kilometre away at an altitude of 11,5 kilometres. The object looked like a large lighted triangle, and it was within sight of Popovich about three minutes. The speed of the triangle was about twice as fast as the speed of the plane.

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The science center Tietomaa also opened a new UFO-exhibition during the seminar.
